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CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Presently amended) A method for establishing a communications channel over an IP-based network comprising:

receiving first endpoint information from a first endpoint regarding a desired communications channel to be established between at least two endpoints the first endpoint and a second endpoint, wherein said first endpoint information includes at least a first public IP address for each of said at least two endpoints associated with the first endpoint;

receiving second endpoint information from a second endpoint wherein the second endpoint information includes at least a second public IP address associated with the second endpoint;

creating a cross-connection between the at least two public IP addresses; and

providing a first cross-connection ID to the at least two endpoints first endpoint wherein the first cross-connection ID comprises a third public IP address not associated with either the first endpoint or the second endpoint.

2. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first cross-connection ID further includes a public address and a port ID.

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3. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 2, ~~wherein each of the at least two endpoints is assigned a unique combination of public IP address and a port~~ further comprising:

> providing the first cross-connection ID to the second endpoint.

4. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 2, ~~wherein each of the at least two endpoints is assigned a same combination of a public IP address and a port~~ further comprising:

> providing a second cross-connection ID to the second endpoint wherein the second cross-connection ID comprises a fourth public IP address not associated with either the first endpoint or the second endpoint and different from the third IP address.

5. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first endpoint information and second endpoint information ~~is~~ are received from an intermediate device attempting to establish the communications channel between the at least two endpoints.

6. (Presently amended) The method according to claim ~~1~~ 2, further comprising receiving one or more packets from ~~a~~ the first endpoint ~~of the at least two endpoints~~ at ~~an~~ the third IP address and port specified in the first cross-connection ID.

7. (Presently amended) The method according to claim ~~6~~ 4, further comprising forwarding ~~the~~ a first set of one or more packets from the first endpoint received at the

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third IP address and a first port to an outgoing port ~~addressed to a~~ associated with the second endpoint ~~of the at least two endpoints~~.

8. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising forwarding the first set of one or more packets from the first endpoint to the second endpoint.

9. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising receiving a second set of one or more packets from the second endpoint at ~~an~~ the fourth IP address and a second port specified in the second cross-connection ID.

10. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising forwarding the second set of one or more packets from the second endpoint received at the fourth IP address and the second port to an outgoing port ~~addressed to~~ associated with the first endpoint.

11. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 10, further comprising forwarding the second set of one or more packets from the second endpoint to the first endpoint.

12. (Presently amended) A method for establishing a communications channel over an IP-based network between at least three endpoints comprising:

receiving first endpoint information regarding a desired communications channel to be established between ~~at least three endpoints~~ a first endpoint, a second endpoint and

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a third endpoint, wherein ~~said~~ the first endpoint information includes at least a first public

IP address for ~~each of said at least three~~ the first endpoint;

receiving second endpoint information wherein the second endpoint information

includes at least a second public IP address for the second endpoint;

receiving third endpoint information wherein the third endpoint information

includes at least a third public IP address for the third endpoint;

creating a cross-connection between the ~~at least three~~ first, second and third

public IP addresses; and

providing a first cross-connection ID to the ~~at least three endpoints~~ first endpoint

wherein the first cross-connection ID includes a fourth public IP address not associated

with the first, second or third endpoints.

13. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein the first, second

and third endpoint information is received from an intermediate device attempting to

establish the communications channel between the ~~at least~~ three endpoints.

14. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising

receiving a first set of one or more packets from ~~a~~ the first endpoint ~~of the at least three~~

~~endpoints~~ at ~~an~~ the fourth IP address and a port specified in the first cross-connection ID.

15. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 14, further comprising

receiving a second set of one or more packets from ~~a~~ the second endpoint ~~of the at least~~

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~~three endpoints~~ at ~~an~~ a fifth IP address ~~and port~~ specified in ~~the~~ a second cross-connection ID.

16. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising receiving a third set of one or more packets from ~~a~~ the third endpoint ~~of the at least three endpoints~~ at ~~an~~ a sixth IP address ~~and port~~ specified in ~~the~~ a third cross-connection ID.

17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising:

mixing ~~the one or more voice~~ at least one of the packets from the first set of one or more packets and at least one of the packets from the second ~~endpoints~~ set of one or more packets to create a first mixed set of one or more packets;

mixing ~~the one or more voice~~ at least one of the packets from the first set of one or more packets and at least one of the packets from the third set of one or more packets ~~endpoints~~ to create a second mixed set of one or more packets; and

mixing ~~the one or more voice~~ at least one of the packets from the second set of one or more packets and at least one of the packets from the third set of one or more packets ~~endpoints~~ to create a third mixed set of one or more packets.

18. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising:

outputting the first mixed set of one or more packets to a first port ~~addressed to~~ associated with the third endpoint;

outputting the second mixed set of one or more packets to a second port ~~addressed to~~ associated with the second endpoint; and

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outputting the third mixed set of one or more packets to a third port ~~addressed to~~ associated with the first endpoint.

19. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 18, further comprising:

forwarding the first mixed set of one or more packets to the third endpoint;

forwarding the second ~~first~~ mixed set of one or more packets to the second endpoint; and

forwarding the third mixed set of one or more packets to the first endpoint.

20. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein the first cross-connection ID includes ~~a public IP address and~~ a port ID.

21. The method according to claim 12, ~~wherein each of the at least three endpoints is assigned a unique combination of a public IP address and a port~~ further comprising:

providing a second cross-connection ID to the ~~at least three endpoints~~ second endpoint wherein the second cross-connection ID includes a fifth public IP address not associated with the first, second or third endpoints.

22. The method according to claim 12, ~~wherein each of the at least three endpoints is assigned a same combination of a public IP address and a port~~ further comprising:

providing a third cross-connection ID to the ~~at least three endpoints~~ third endpoint wherein the third cross-connection ID includes a sixth public IP address not associated with the first, second or third endpoints.

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23-25. (Cancelled)

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